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# The View from Ohio: Political Scientist Says Split Decision Possible, Bush May Squeak by Gore

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## NEWS TIPS

### THE VIEW FROM OHIO: POLITICAL SCIENTIST SAYS SPLIT DECISION POSSIBLE, BUSH MAY SQUEAK BY GORE

As the presidential candidates head into the final weekend of the race, George W. Bush will probably win both the popular vote and the electoral college, says Gerald Kerns, political science professor at the University of Dayton. "My hunch is that unless the Ralph Nader voters realize that their votes mean Bush will win and they decide to back Al Gore, Bush will probably eke out a win in both the popular vote and electoral college vote," he said.

But the eventual outcome is not a certainty, he said. "We could very well have a situation in this election where one candidate wins the popular vote but loses the election in the electoral college," said Kerns, a 40-year analyst of the political scene. "There is a chance, given the state-by-state votes, that Gore could win the electoral college and Bush take the popular vote."

Kerns has developed a list of key areas to watch. "The vote of women — can Gore continue to make gains there? How successful will either side be in getting their hardcore voters to the polls? Gore needs a heavy black turnout and a strong vote from labor as well as women to win. Bush will score amongst white males, and at the moment he has a slight lead amongst seniors. Can he hold on to that? Seniors in Florida and Pennsylvania are up for grabs, and Gore has made inroads there. Those are strategic, battleground states.

"That's a lot of ifs, but that's what we have here."

For media interviews, contact **Gerald Kerns** at (937) 229-3650 or via e-mail at [Gerald.Kerns@notes.udayton.edu](mailto:Gerald.Kerns@notes.udayton.edu).